



Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An application device (1), in particular for applying a liquid, gel-like or pasty cosmetic to the skin, comprising

- a container (3) for the cosmetic;
- an applicator (6) which is connected to the container (3) via at least one supply channel (14);
- a piston (4) which is displaceably guided in the container (3) for delivery of the cosmetic towards the applicator (6);
- an operating mechanism (5) for operating the piston (4), the operating mechanism comprising a threaded rod 35) having an end thereof molded on the piston (4) so that the threaded rod and piston form an integral unit;
- wherein the operating mechanism (5) is connected and secured to another part of the application

device (1), ~~in particular~~ to the container (3), via a flexible interlocking device (30, 31);

- wherein the interlocking device (30, 31) comprises a flexible interlocking element (30) which is provided on an outer side of a wall of the operating mechanism (5), ~~and which, and an internally threaded section (33)~~ rotatably engaged to the threaded rod (35) formed on an inner side of the wall of the operating mechanism (5), wherein the flexible interlocking element (30) for flexible dislocation, is disposed in the vicinity of a wall weakening (32) of the operating mechanism (5).

12. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 11, wherein the piston (4) comprises an outer guide section of non rotationally, symmetric cross-sectional shape, the guide section cooperating with a complementary inner guide surface (2) of the container (3).

13. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 12, wherein the cross-sectional shape of the outer guide section is elliptic.

14. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 11, wherein the operating mechanism (5) is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the piston

(4), translation of the rotary motion of the operating mechanism (5) into piston travel taking place via a reversing gear, a locking device (23) being provided, which subdivides the rotary motion of the operating mechanism (5) about the longitudinal axis into discrete steps of rotation.

15. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 14, wherein the locking device (23) comprises a first locking unit (25) which is disposed on the operating mechanism (5) and cooperates with a second locking unit (22) which is mounted ~~on another part of the application device (1), in particular~~ on the container (3), one of the two locking units (22, 25) having at least one rib (24) which cooperates with at least one flexible locking tongue (27) of the other locking unit (25, 22).

16. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 15, wherein the at least one locking tongue (27) is formed for deviation from the symmetry of rotation about the longitudinal axis of the piston (4) such that the locking device (23) permits a motion of rotation of the operating mechanism (5) only in a single direction of rotation.

17. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 11, wherein the applicator (6) has a flocked application surface (7) which is integrally joined thereto.

18. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 14, wherein the locking device (23) comprises a first locking unit (25) which is disposed on the operating mechanism (5) and cooperates with a second locking unit (22) which is mounted on the container (3), one of the two locking units (22, 25) having at least one rib (24) which cooperates with at least one flexible locking tongue (27) of the other locking unit (25, 22).

19. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 11, wherein the operating mechanism (5) is connected and secured to the container (3).

20. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The application device according to claim 14, wherein the operating mechanism (5) is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the piston (4), translation of the rotary motion of the operating mechanism (5) into piston travel taking place via a helical gear (33, 35).

21. (New) An application device (1), in particular for applying a liquid, gel-like or pasty cosmetic to the skin, comprising

- a container (3) for the cosmetic;
- an applicator (6) which is connected to the container (3) via at least one supply channel (14);
- a piston (4) which is displaceably guided in the container (3) for delivery of the cosmetic towards the applicator (6);
- an operating mechanism (5) for operating the piston (4);
- wherein the operating mechanism (5) is connected and secured to the container (3) via a flexible interlocking device (30, 31);
- wherein the interlocking device (30, 31) comprises flexible locking-collar sections as a flexible interlocking element (30) which is provided on an outer side of a wall of the operating mechanism (5), and which, for flexible dislocation, is disposed on a level with weakening windows (32) forming a wall weakening (32) spaced apart from and between opposite ends of the operating mechanism (5).

22. (New) An application device (1), in particular for applying a liquid, gel-like or pasty cosmetic to the skin, comprising

- a container (3) for the cosmetic;
- an applicator (6) which is connected to the container (3) via at least one supply channel (14);
- a piston (4) which is displaceably guided in the container (3) for delivery of the cosmetic towards the applicator (6);
- an operating mechanism (5) for operating the piston (4);
- wherein the operating mechanism (5) is connected and secured to the container (3) via a flexible interlocking device (30, 31);
 - wherein the interlocking device (30, 31) comprises a flexible interlocking element (30) which is provided on an outer wall of the operating mechanism (5), and which, for flexible dislocation, is disposed in the vicinity of a wall weakening (32) of the operating mechanism (5),
 - wherein the operating mechanism is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the piston (4), translation of the rotary motion of the operating mechanism (5) into the piston travel taking place via a reversing gear, a locking device (23) being provided, which subdivides the rotary motion

of the operating mechanism (5) about the longitudinal axis into discrete steps of rotation,

- wherein the locking device (23) comprises a first locking unit (25) which is disposed on the operating mechanism (5) and cooperates with a second locking unit (22) which is mounted on the container (3), one of the two locking units (22, 25) having a plurality of ribs (24) which cooperates with two flexible locking tongues (27) of the other locking unit (25, 22), wherein the two locking tongues (27) extend in the longitudinal direction of the operating mechanism (5) and are displaced from one another by 180° in the circumferential direction about the longitudinal axis of the operating mechanism (5).

23. (New) An application device (1), in particular for applying a liquid, gel-like or pasty cosmetic to the skin, comprising

- a container (3) for the cosmetic;
- an applicator (6) which is connected to the container (3) via at least one supply channel (14);
- a piston (4) which is displaceably guided in the container (3) for delivery of the cosmetic towards the applicator (6);

- an operating mechanism (5) for operating the piston (4), the operating mechanism comprising a threaded rod (35) having an end thereof molded on the piston (4) so that the threaded rod and piston form an integral unit;

- wherein the operating mechanism (5) is connected and secured to the container (3), via a flexible interlocking device (30, 31);

- wherein the interlocking device (30, 31) comprises a flexible interlocking element (30) which is provided on an outer side of a wall of the operating mechanism (5), an internally threaded section (35) rotationally engaged to the threaded rod (35) formed on an inner side of the wall of the operating mechanism (5), wherein the flexible interlocking element (3) for flexible dislocation, is disposed in the vicinity of a wall weakening (32) of the operating mechanism (5),

Wherein the internally threaded section (33) is rotatably engaged to the threaded rod (35) at a first end of the operating mechanism (5) and the wall weakening (32) is formed by window openings (32) on opposite sides of the operating mechanism (5) spaced apart from and between the first end and a second end of the operating mechanism (5) and adjacent to the flexible interlocking device (30, 31).

24. (New) The application device according to claim 23, wherein the cross-sectional shape of the outer guide section is elliptic.

25. (New) The application device according to claim 23, wherein the operating mechanism (5) is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the piston (4), translation of the rotary motion of the operating mechanism (5) into piston travel taking place via a reversing gear, a locking device (23) being provided, which subdivides the rotary motion of the operating mechanism (5) about the longitudinal axis into discrete steps of rotation.

26. (New) The application device according to claim 25, wherein the locking device (23) comprises a first locking unit (25) which is disposed on the operating mechanism (5) and cooperates with a second locking unit (22) which is mounted on the container (3), one of the two locking units (22, 25) having at least one rib (24) which cooperates with at least one flexible locking tongue (27) of the other locking unit (25, 22).

27. (New) The application device according to claim 26, wherein the at least one locking tongue (27) is formed for deviation from the symmetry of rotation about the longitudinal axis of the piston (4) such that the locking

device (23) permits a motion of rotation of the operating mechanism (5) only in a single direction of rotation.

28. (New) The application device according to claim 23, wherein the applicator (6) has a flocked application surface (7) which is integrally joined thereto.

29. (New) The application device according to claim 25, wherein the locking device (23) comprises a first locking unit (25) which is disposed on the operating mechanism (5) and cooperates with a second locking unit (22) which is mounted on the container (3), one of the two locking units (22, 25) having at least one rib (24) which cooperates with at least one flexible locking tongue (27) of the other locking unit (25, 22).

30. (New) The application device according to claim 23, wherein the operating mechanism (5) is connected and secured to the container (3).

31. (New) The application device according to claim 25, wherein the operating mechanism (5) is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the piston (4), translation of the rotary motion of the operating mechanism (5) into piston travel taking place via a helical gear (33, 35).